

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SANA 01747 091317Z  
ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00  
SP-02 PM-03 DODE-00 /037 W  
-----091927Z 094841 /43  
R 090915Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY SANA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1173  
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T SANA 1747

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, YE  
SUBJECT: LETTER FROM AL-AHMAR

BEGIN SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR HAS RECEIVED LONG LETTER FROM ABADALLAH BIN  
HUSSAIN AL-AHMAR CASTIGATING AL-HAMDI AND, MORE POLITELY, USG  
FOR ITS SUPPORT OF INCREASINGLY LEFTIST SANA REGIME.  
AL-AHMAR SAYS HE FORESEES EXPLOSION AND INVITES AMBASSADOR  
TO KHAMR TO DISCUSS WHAT MIGHT BE DONE.  
COMMENT BY SETPEL. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBASSY POUCHING TO DEPARTMENT TRANSLATION OF LONG AND  
SOMETIMES INTERESTING LETTER FROM HASHID TRIBAL CONFEDERA-  
TION HEAD ABDALLAH BIN HUSSAIN AL-AHMAR. LETTER WAS DE-  
LIVERED TO AMBASSADOR'S HOUSE 7 MAY AT NIGHT BY HAND AND IS,  
WE ASSUME, GENUINE AND NOT PROVOCATION.

2. LETTER IS QUITE LONG, AND IN PREAMBLE PROTESTS AT  
LENGTH ANTI-COMMUNIST AND PRO-WEST SENTIMENTS OF  
AL-AHMAR, USING ILLUSTRATIONS  
FROM LAST TWENTY YEARS.

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3. OF MORE INTEREST IS LENGTHY DISCUSSION OF CRUCIAL  
ROLE OF TRIBES IN REVOLUTION. THERE WERE ONLY ABOUT  
2000) SOLDIERS IN THE 1 YEAR PERIOD, HE SAYS; SANA  
WAS REALLY DEFENDED BY TRIBES WHO FOUGHT NOT FOR BENE-  
FITS BUT FOR PRINCIPLES. AL-AHMAR GOES ON TO ASSERT  
THAT AL-HAMDI REGIME NOW CONTROLS ONLY HALF OF COUNTRY,  
AND THIS LIMITED CONTROL WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE WERE IT

NOT FOR RESTRAINT OF TRIBAL OPPOSITION TO AL-HAMDI.  
AL-AHMAR LEAVES LITTLE DOUBT ABOUT HIS VIEW OF BALANCE  
OF POWER BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND TRIBES, CLAIMING  
REGIME IS UNPOPULAR AND ITS MILITARY ARM RACKED WITH  
DESERTIONS. TRIBAL REGIONS, BY CONTRAST, HAVE  
"STABILITY AND COMFORT TO GREATER DEGREE THAN REGIONS  
WHICH HAVE SUBMITTED TO SUBJUGATION AND TYRANNY OF  
POWER." AL-AHMAR POINTEDLY REFERES AT ONE POINT TO  
HIS LETTER OF 13 JUNE 1974 WHICH, HE SAYS, BROUGHT  
DOWN GOVERNMENT OF QADI ABDAL RAHMAN AL-IRYANI BY  
THREATENING A TRIBAL MARCH ON SANA.

4. AL-AHMAR CONTRASTS NEED AND DESIRE OF TRIBES FOR  
DEVELOPMENT COOPREATION WITH WEST, DEMOCRACY, AND ORDER  
WITH "DECEITFUL" AND "UNDEMOCRATIC" REGIME OF  
AL-HAMDI, WHODEPENDS ON "TERROR, MILITARY RULE AND  
INTELLIGENCE APPARATUS." AL-HAMDI, HE SAYS, IS "TWO-  
FACED" MAN WHO PLAYS OFF EAST AGAINST WEST IN INTEREST  
HIS OWN RULE BUT LEFTISTS ARE INCREASINGLY DOMINANT IN

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND FOROEKN TIES AND EXTREMISM OF  
THESE MEN BODE ILL FOR US ANDSAUDI INTERESTS HERE AS  
WELL AS PEACE IN LAND. LEFTISTS, ACCORDING TO A-AHMAR,  
WANT TO PROVODE AN "EXPLOSION".

5. REAL ISSUE, OF COURSE, IS "SINGLE AMBITIOUS PERSON"  
WHOM US AND SAUDIS SUPPORT LAVISHLY AND FOOLISHLY.  
AL-AHMARSAYS OMINOUSLY THAT "MATTERS HAVE SURPASSED  
LIMITS HIS ABILITY TO CONTROL THEM", AND THAT "IT IS  
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POSSIBLE THAT SITUATION WILL GET OUT OF HAND." "AL-  
HAMDI IS AT AN END, BURNED OUT." USG CAN STRENGTHEN  
HIM FOR ONLY YEAR OR TWO, BUT OF COURSE AT GREAT COST  
TO ITS INTERESTS AND REPUTATION. TO DISCUSS THESE  
MATTERS, AL-AHMAR CONCLUDES AMBASSADOR SHOULD COME  
TO KHAMR, AL-AHMAR'S HOME ON ROAD NORTH TO SAADAH.  
SCOTES

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**TAGS:** PINT, YE, US, (AL-AHMAR, ABADALLAH BIN HUSSAIN)  
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**Review Markings:**  
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